

AMENDMENT B
(37 C.F.R. 1.111)

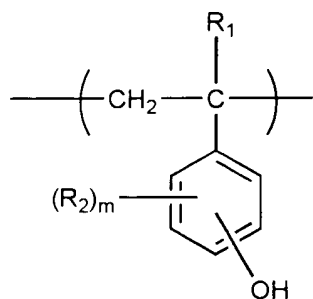
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121.

The claims are attached herein on separate sheets.

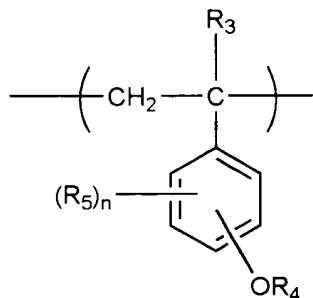
AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An alkenylphenol copolymer ~~characterized by that a copolymer consists of comprising~~ Component ~~(A)~~ containing a repeating unit represented by Formula (I)



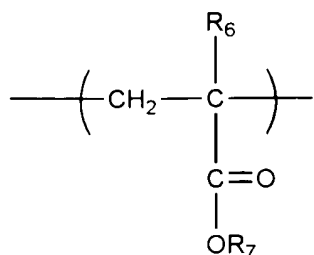
Formula (I)

~~wherein, R₁ is hydrogen or methyl, R₂ is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons, m is 0, 1 or 2 and R₂ is the same or different when m is 2~~ and a repeating unit represented by Formula (II)



Formula (II)

~~wherein, R₃ is hydrogen or methyl, R₄ is a group to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid, R₅ is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons, n is 0, 1 or 2 and R₅ is the same or different when n is 2~~ and Component ~~(B)~~ containing a repeating unit represented by Formula (III)

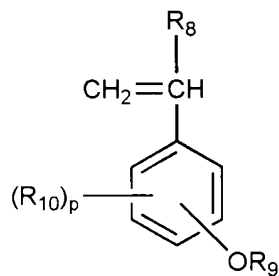


Formula (III)

wherein, R_6 is hydrogen or methyl, and R_7 is a group having a t-butyl group and to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid, of which Components A and B are bound in block in the form of $\text{A} - \text{B}$, has a ratio Mw/Mn of the weight-average molecular weight Mw to the number-average molecular weight Mn in a range of 1.00 and 1.50, and has no carboxylic acid residues.

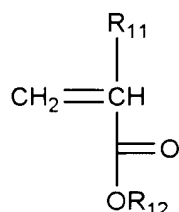
2. (Original) An alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 1 in which the weight-average molecular weight is 1,000 to 100,000.

3. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 1, in which a compound represented by Formula (IV) whose hydroxyl group of the phenol residue is protected



Formula (IV)

wherein, R_8 is hydrogen or methyl, R_9 is a group to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid, R_{10} is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons, p is 0, 1 or 2 and R_{10} is the same or different when p is 2 is polymerized, or a compound of Formula (IV) and a vinylaromatic compound are copolymerized, by anionic polymerization using an anionic polymerization initiator as a polymerization initiator, followed by copolymerization with a (meth)acrylic ester represented by Formula (V)



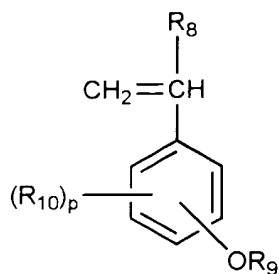
Formula (V)

wherein, R_{11} is hydrogen or methyl, and R_{12} is a group having a *t*-butyl group and to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid; and the obtained block copolymer is treated with an acid reagent to eliminate and/or decompose only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group.

4. (Original) A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 3 in which the step of eliminating and/or decomposing only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group with an acid reagent is carried out at below 60°C.

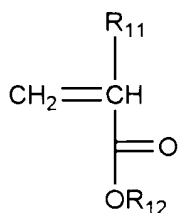
5. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 2, in which a

compound represented by Formula (IV) whose hydroxyl group of the phenol residue is protected



Formula (IV)

wherein, R_8 is hydrogen or methyl, R_9 is a group to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid, R_{10} is alkyl having 1 to 5 carbons, p is 0, 1 or 2 and R_{10} is the same or different when p is 2; is polymerized, or a compound of Formula (IV) and a vinylaromatic compound are copolymerized, by anionic polymerization using an anionic polymerization initiator as a polymerization initiator, followed by copolymerization with a (meth)acrylic ester represented by Formula (V)



Formula (V)

wherein, R_{11} is hydrogen or methyl, and R_{12} is a group having a *t*-butyl group and to be eliminated and/or decomposed with an acid; and the obtained block copolymer is treated with an acid

reagent to eliminate and/or decompose only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group.

6. (Previously Added) A process for the preparation of the alkenylphenol copolymer according to Claim 5 in which the step of eliminating and/or decomposing only a specified amount of the group protecting the phenolic hydroxyl group with an acid reagent is carried out at below 60°C.